

Definitions

Compensatory Mitigation: As defined by CEQ, this means compensating for the impact by replacement or providing substitute resources or environments. This offsite mitigation can be immediately adjacent to the area impacted but can also be located anywhere in the same general geographic area. It does not have to be juxtaposed.

Mitigation: The CEQ defines mitigation to include: (a) avoiding; (b) minimizing the impacts by limiting the magnitude or degree; (c) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring; (d) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and (e) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

In-lieu-fee Mitigation: Payment of funds to a natural resource management entity (e.g., an agency or third-party organization) for implementation of specific projects designed to replace or substitute resources impacted by an authorized project. For the purposes of this Instruction Memorandum, its use would always require a formal agreement among affected parties and BLM.

In-kind Compensatory Mitigation: Replacement or substitute resources that are of the same type and kind as being impacted. For example, replacement with sagebrush habitat of the same general quality and species compensation as is being impacted by the project.

On-site mitigation: Mitigation of the actual area affected by the action causing the impact. For a comparative example, the reclamation of an abandoned well pad is onsite mitigation; compensatory mitigation in another area to offset the loss of vegetation during the life of that same well pad is defined as offsite mitigation.

Out-of-kind: Replacement or substitute resources that, while related and of a different quality, species mix, or even species type, are of equal or greater overall value to the ecology of the impacted species or ecological region. Example: Replacement of lost sagebrush with improved grazing practices on related habitat but not of the exact type and species mix. The net ecological values may be the same or better, but the acreages and species composition of the habitat would be substantially different.